

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for recording still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, onto a storage medium, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information includes time information and is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said time information of said still picture group management information includes ~~time information including~~ only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of a still picture, with said first recording time stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of said still picture, with said last recording times stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

3. and 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a program for controlling a computer to record still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group onto a storage medium, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information includes time information and is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said time information of said still picture group management information includes ~~time information including~~ only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said program comprising operations for:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of a still picture, with said first recording time stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 5, wherein said program comprises operations for:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of said still picture, with said last recording times stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of recording still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing and N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group onto a storage medium, where said N is an integer number equal to or greater than one, wherein said still picture group management information includes time information and is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, said method comprising:

recording, ~~as part as~~ said time information of said still picture group management information, ~~time information which includes~~ only a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said still picture data of said N still pictures and said recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 5, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said program comprising an operation for recording said still picture data of said N still pictures and said recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said still picture data of said N still pictures and said recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, where N is an integer number larger than one.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 5, where N is an integer number larger than one.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, where N is an integer number larger than one.

14. (New) A method for recording still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group, onto a storage medium, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information includes a recording time data which specify the recording times, all of the recording times in said still picture group management information consist of either a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said method comprising:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of a still picture, with said first recording time stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, comprising:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of said still picture, with said last recording times stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

16. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a program for controlling a computer to record still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group onto a storage medium, where N is an integer number equal to or larger than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, and said still picture group management information includes

a recording time data which specify the recording times, all of the recording times in said still picture group management information consist of either a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device, said program comprising operations for:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of a still picture, with said first recording time stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is earlier than said first recording time, replacing the content of said first recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

17. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said program comprises operations for:

comparing a recording time of said still picture data of said still picture, with said last recording times stored in said still picture group management information corresponding to the still picture group belonging to said still picture data; and

if said recording time is later than said last recording time, replacing the content of said last recording time by said recording time and performing recording thereof.

18. (New) A method of recording still picture data of N still pictures stored in separate N files, respectively, and for recording still picture group management information for managing and N still picture data of said N still pictures as a still picture group onto a storage medium, where said N is an integer number equal to or greater than one, wherein said still picture group management information is provided separately from any still picture management information containing management information for each still picture, said method comprising:

recording, as part of said still picture group management information, a recording time data which specify the recording times, all of the recording times in said still picture group management information consist of either a first recording time at which the still picture data of an earliest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded first by a picture-taking device, and a last recording time at which the still picture data of a latest-photographed still picture in said still picture group was recorded last by the picture-taking device.

19. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said still picture data of said N still pictures and said recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

20. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said program comprising an operation for recording said still picture data of said N still pictures and said

recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

21. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein said storage medium is an optical disk, and where said method comprising recording said still picture data of said N still pictures and said recording still picture group management information in the optical disk using an optical recording device.

22. (New) A method according to claim 14, where N is an integer number larger than one.

23. (New) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 16, where N is an integer number larger than one.

24. (New) A method according to claim 18, where N is an integer number larger than one.